



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/403,593	02/15/2000	JOHN PETERSON	JJ-9722US	7479

7590 12/31/2001

DENNISON ASSOCIATES  
133 RICHMOND STREET WEST  
SUITE 301  
TORONTO ONTARIO, M5H2L7  
CANADA

EXAMINER

CHARLES, DEBRA F

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2161

DATE MAILED: 12/31/2001

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

H.G.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/403,593

Applicant(s)

PETERSON ET AL.

Examiner

Debra F. Charles

Art Unit

2161

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 February 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

Art Unit: 2161

Claims 1-4 have been examined.

***Claim Objections***

1. Claim 4 references itself. A series of singular dependent claims is permissible in which a dependent claim refers to a preceding claim which, in turn, refers to another preceding claim.

A claim which depends from a dependent claim should not be separated by any claim which does not also depend from said dependent claim. It should be kept in mind that a dependent claim may refer to any preceding independent claim. In general, applicant's sequence will not be changed. See MPEP § 608.01(n).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Humphries et al.(5,621,662)**and **Moderi et al.(5,510,979)**.

As per **Claim 1**, **Humphries et al.** disclose a controller(Col. 2, lines 33-46) for controlling(Abstract) the function of components of a security system(Abstract) and the function of the components of the security system(Abstract) being controllable(Abstract) by touching a portion of the screen having the component or security system(Abstract).

Art Unit: 2161

**Humphries et al.** fails to disclose a touch sensitive screen with a graphical representation of the security system(Abstract) and the components displayed on the screen, to be controlled displayed thereon.

**Moderi et al.** discloses a touch sensitive screen(Col. 7, lines 1-15) with a graphical representation of the security system(Abstract) and the components displayed on the screen(Col. 1, lines 36-43), to be controlled displayed(Col. 1, lines 36-43)thereon.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art the time of the applicant's invention to modify the controller of **Humphries et al.** and include a touch sensitive screen(Col. 7, lines 1-15) with a graphical representation of the security system(Abstract) and the components displayed on the screen(Col. 1, lines 36-43), to be controlled displayed(Col. 1, lines 36-43)thereon based on the teachings of **Moderi et al.**

**Moderi et al.** provides the motivation by indicating a touch-sensitive screen connected to a microcomputer by a touch-sensitive screen interface and a video monitor connected to microcomputer; this enables easier product construction and use in the home environment.

As per **Claim 2**, **Humphries et al.** disclose a controller(Col. 2, lines 33-46) as claimed in claim 1 wherein the controller(Col. 2, lines 33-46) also provides for control of home automation functions by providing a display of the environment conditions capable of being controlled in the home automation functions(Col. 4, lines 42-67).

**Claims 3 and 4** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Humphries et al.**(5,621,662)and **Moderi et al.** (5,510,979) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of **Mahoney et al.**(5,819,271).

As per **Claim 3**, **Humphries et al.** disclose a controller(Col. 2, lines 33-46) as claimed in claim 1 wherein the controller(Col. 2, lines 33-46) also provides for display of user selectable information(Col. 14, lines 50-60).

Art Unit: 2161

As per **Claim 4, Humphries et al.** disclose a controller(Col. 2, lines 33-46) as claimed in claim 4 wherein the user selectable information(Col. 14, lines 50-60).

**Humphries et al.** and **Moderi et al.** fail to disclose a data access provider and one or more items selected from the group consisting of weather information, news reports, sports information, and financial information.

**Mahoney et al.** disclose a data access provider(Col. 11, lines 40-53) and one or more items selected from the group consisting of weather information, news reports, sports information, and financial information(Col.10, lines 7-40).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art the time of the applicant's invention to modify the controller of **Humphries et al.** and **Moderi et al.** and include data access provider(Col. 11, lines 40-53) and one or more items selected from the group consisting of weather information, news reports, sports information, and financial information(Col.10, lines 7-40)based on the teachings of **Mahoney et al.** mh

**Mahoney et al.** provides the motivation by indicating the user computer does connect with the Internet via a commercial Internet Service Provider that is a data access provider; and provide access to news reports, corporate financial information, press releases and other corporate information. Thus, weather reports and sports news are conveyed by the same medium to individuals in the home. This makes the controller a multifunctional device, enhancing its usefulness. mh

### **Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Debra F. Charles whose telephone number is (703) 306-0372. The examiner can normally be reached on 9-5 Monday thru Friday.

Art Unit: 2161

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James P. Trammell can be reached on (703) 305-9768. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7239 for regular communications and (703) 746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.


Debra F. Charles

Examiner

Art Unit 2161

DFC

December 27, 2001



Hyung-Sup Soogh  
Primary Examiner